GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5194
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2001
LOW QUALITY OF PDS ITEMS
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of foodgrains including sugar available under public distribution system is of inferior quality;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to further strengthen its monitoring mechanism in coordination with State Governments to ensure that foodgrains including sugar available under PDS are of good quality; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) No Sir, Good quality foodgrains and sugar strictly conforming to the specifications laid down by the Government of India are issued to the State Governments or their authorised representatives for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System(TPDS) through Fair Price Shops(FPS).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d) : The following steps have been taken by the Government to further strengthenthe monitoring of the quality of foodgrains available under PDS:

(i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officers / officials of the State Governments to inspect the stock prior to issue from FCI godowns.

(ii) Instructions have been issued by this Department to all the State Governments thatan officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before issue from the FCI godowns.

(iii) The samples of foodgrains are jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the state Government and FCI from the stock to be issued under TPDS for displaying at the counters of Fair Price Shops for the benefit of consumers.

(iv) The officers of the State Governments` and the Ministry pay surprise checks of the FPSs,to over see the quality of foodgrains being distributed through PDS.

(v) The officers of the Department designated as `Area Officers` for monitoringthe TPDSwork in the respective States also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPSs, duringtheir visit to the States to check the quality of foodgrains and sugar being issued.